

CLAIMS:

1. System for providing a personalized TV channel to at least one of a number of users, which system comprises:

a server entity, which entity is connectable to a network, the entity comprising

– a network unit for receiving real time information, user parameters and user commands
5 via the network,

– generation means for generating the personalized TV channel for said at least one user in response to the user parameters and user commands by selectively including in the personalized TV channel real time information from further users; and

a device for said at least one user, the device comprising

10 – an input unit for receiving the real time information from a capture unit, which real time information comprises video information related to the user,

– storage means for storing the user parameters identifying said at least one user,

– control means for receiving the user commands for controlling the contents of the personalized TV channel,

15 – a network unit for coupling the device to a server entity via a network for transmitting the real time information and the user parameters and user commands, and

– generating means for generating an output signal for display on a TV display based on the personalized TV channel.

20 2. Device for providing a personalized TV channel to a user for use in the system of claim 1, the device comprising

– an input unit for receiving real time information from a capture unit, which real time information comprises video information related to the user,

– storage means for storing user parameters identifying the user,

25 – control means for receiving user commands for controlling the contents of the personalized TV channel,

– a network unit for coupling the device to a network for transmitting the real time information and the user parameters and user commands, the personalized TV channel

comprising real time information received from further users selected in dependence on said transmitted user parameters and user commands, and

- generating means for generating an output signal for display on a TV display based on the personalized TV channel.

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3. Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the device comprise means for receiving server control information, in particular indicating that a further user is receiving the real time information from the user.

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4. Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the control means include sound control means for controlling sound to accompany the personalized TV channel, in particular selecting sound from a TV or radio station.

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5. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the sound control means are arranged for adding sound of a real time source from which source real time information is included in the personalized TV channel or mixing said sound with sound from a TV or radio station.

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6. Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the device has means for detecting the presence of sound provided by the capture unit, and wherein the sound control means are arranged for said adding in dependence on said presence.

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7. Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the storage means are arranged for storing picture information and the generating means are arranged for including the picture information in the output signal.

8. Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the control means include means for coupling to a remote control unit, which remote control unit has user control buttons for giving the user commands for controlling the contents of the personalized TV channel.

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9. Server entity for use in the system of claim 1, which entity is connectable to a network for providing a personalized TV channel for at least one of a number of users, the entity comprising

- a network unit for receiving real time information, user parameters and user commands via the network and for transmitting the personalized TV channel to the user via the network,
- generation means for generating the personalized TV channel for said at least one user in response to the user parameters and user commands by selectively including in the personalized TV channel real time information from further users.

10. Entity as claimed in claim 9, wherein the generation means are arranged for maintaining status information, the status information for a user at least including one of the following: whether the capture unit is active; which other users are receiving the real time information from the user.

11. Method of managing the system of claim 1 for providing a personalized TV channel, the method comprising

- managing a server entity by providing user registration for users which are allowed to connect to the server entity via the device for providing a personalized TV channel to the user, and
- generating the user parameters identifying the user for user registration and for storage in the device.

12. Method of providing a personalized TV channel for at least one of a number of users, the method comprising

- connecting to the users via a network,
- receiving real time information, user parameters and user commands via the network,
- generating the personalized TV channel for said at least one user in response to the user parameters and user commands by selectively including in the personalized TV channel real time information from further users, and
- transmitting the personalized TV channel to the user via the network.

13. Computer program product for providing a personalized TV channel for at least one of a number of users, which program is operative to cause a processor to perform the method as claimed in claim 12.